



Angler's Notebook

by Jerry Bush



photo-Jerry Bush

• While bass are not as sensitive to light as walleyes, they show a preference to reside and hide in shadows created by structure, where they wait to ambush unsuspecting baitfish. Therefore, it is wise to cast to shady areas such as docks, timber and lily pads. However, don't forget the bass's tendency to ambush fish just beyond the shady areas. Force the bait to move as close to the shade as possible.

• Try some of the new fluorocarbon fishing lines when fishing clear water. Fluorocarbon becomes nearly invisible underwater, and anglers need every advantage when fishing in conditions that easily scare finned creatures. That is not to insinuate that these lines are perfect for every situation. Fluorocarbons are stiffer than monofilament and tend to hold the shape of the spool, and they can be difficult to cast extreme distances.

• Jointed crankbaits move through the water with a natural swimming motion accentuated by the loose joints. Having a large selection of these lures on hand is generally a wise

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investment. It is not only smart to own these lures in a variety of colors, but to have several sizes of each color on hand.

• As fancy as lures are today, the plastic worm is probably the bait that has accounted for more bass than any other imitation. Its popularity is easily explained by the fact that it is versatile. Plastic worms can be rigged with or without additional weight, Carolina-style and Texas-style.

• Some of the best bass fishing in Pennsylvania can be found in farm ponds. Managing a pond's fish population represents a considerable investment by the landowner. If you wish to access these small, private bodies of water, volunteering to use barbless hooks may help secure permission.

Fishin' from the Kitchen

Catfish Wraps

by Wayne Phillips



photo-Wayne Phillips

Young and old will love wraps packed with succulent catfish and their favorite fillings.

Ingredients for four servings:

- 1½ pound catfish fillets
- 1 cup cornmeal
- 1 tsp. cumin seeds, crushed
- 1 red pepper
- 1 large yellow onion
- 1 head iceberg lettuce
- 2 Tbsp. butter
- Salt and black pepper to taste
- 8 large tortillas

Guacamole:

- 2 avocados
- ½ clove garlic, minced
- 1 medium tomato, seeds removed, cut into ½-inch dice
- Zest and juice of a lime
- 2 tsp. extra virgin olive oil
- Salt and black pepper to taste

Procedure

Cut catfish fillets into 1-inch wide strips. Crush cumin seeds, and mix with cornmeal. Coat catfish strips with the cornmeal mixture. Fry catfish strips in butter over medium heat until cooked through. Season the catfish with salt and black pepper. Cut pepper and onion into ½-inch wide strips. Slice iceberg lettuce into 1-inch wide strips. Turn off the oven, and put tortillas in to warm.

Serve

Arrange ingredients on a platter, so diners can make their own tortillas. Pass the guacamole in a bowl. A fresh corn and black bean salad is excellent with the wraps. Mexican Valentina pepper sauce is great with catfish.

Hints

Roasting or grilling yellow peppers and red onions gives them added flavor. The flavor of peppers works well with all kinds of fish. La Victoria mild green taco sauce supplies a burst of pepper flavor without any heat at all. Valentina salsa picante is a Mexican mild hot sauce that adds the wonderful flavor of peppers and a bit of heat. For fans of hotter sauces, there are many on the market. Try out different ones until you find your favorite.